

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An optical switch comprising a cladding layer and a core disposed in an interior of the cladding layer for light propagating in such a way that a width of the core is enlarged at a branching section formed at a portion along a length of the core to provide plural branched cores to enable to alter a propagation path of inputted light by selective heating of portions of the branching section and the plural branched cores, wherein

a branching section heater for heating the branching section and branched core heaters for heating the plural branched cores are controlled separately, each branched core heater having distances from the branched core and a portion of the branching section facing the branched core so as not to disturb a light-branching operation.

5. (Amended) An optical switch according to claim 1, wherein

a minimum distance separating a branching core heater for heating one branched core of the plural branched cores and a center of a core adjacent to said one branched core is 40 μm or more; and

a minimum distance between the branching core heater and the branching section is 40 μm or more.

REMARKS

The Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-9. In this Response, claims 1 and 5 have been amended, and no claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-9 are pending in the case.

Drawings/Specification

In Office Action paragraph 1, Fig. 4 of the drawings was objected to as including reference numerals 26b and 26c which are not mentioned in the specification. In response, the specification has been amended at page 11, lines 5-10 to include output ports 26b, 26c. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants also respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.